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PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 MC-02 ACDA-10 ACDE-00 IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
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TAGS: MASS PFOR JO S

SUBJECT: JORDANI

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2. BEGIN QUOTE: MR ZAYD RIFAI, THE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTER, RECEIVED IN HIS OFFICE AT A LATE HOUR LAST NIGHT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN AMMAN WHO INFORMED HIM THAT THE AMERICAN CONGRESS HAS APPROVED JORDAN'S REQUEST TO PURCHASE 14 BATTERIES OF IMPROVED HAWK MISSILES AFTER PRESIDENT FORD SENT A MESSAGE TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS IN WHICH HE NOTIFIED THEM THAT THESE MISSILE BATTERIES WILL BEGIN TO BE RECEIVED IN JORDAN TOWARDS THE END OF 1976, AND THAT DELIVERY WILL CONTINUE IN INSTALLMENTS UNTIL 1979. THE MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT FORD ALSO INCLUDED

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ASSURANCES THAT THE MISSILES WILL BE USED SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE DEFENSE OF JORDAN AND THAT THEIR EMPLACEMENT IN THE KINGDOM WILL REFLECT THEIR DEFENSIVE NATURE: THAT IS THEY WILL BE USED FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE AREAS OF AMMAN ZARQA, AND THE AIRPORTS, AIR BASES, RADAR STATIONS, AND OTHER VITAL REGIONS IN THE KINGDOM. PRESIDENT FORD ADDED IN HIS MESSAGE TO CONGRESS THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ACCEPT THAT THESE BATTERIES BE A PART OF ANY ARAB BILATERAL OR COLLECTIVE MILITARY ARRANGEMENT EXCEPT AFTER OBTAINING ITS PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL AND THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WILL SUPERVISE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL THESE ARRANGMENTS, AND WILL RESERVE TO ITSELF AND TO THE AMERICAN CONGRESS THE RIGHT TO ADOPT APPROPRIATE MEASURES, IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS CEASING PROVISION OF THE MISSILES.

3. UPON THE ORDER AND DIRECTIVES OF HIS MAJESTY THE EXALTED KING (KING HUSSEIN) THE PRIME MINISTER INFORMED THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR OF THE REGRET OF THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT REGARDING ITS ABSOLUTE NON-READINESS TO SIGN THE CONTRACT OF PURCHASE OF THE MENTIONED HAWK MISSILES WITH THE KINDS OF CONDITIONS RESTRICTIONS AND OBLIGATIONS AS ARE CONTAINED IN THE MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT FORD TO THE CONGRESS, WHICH JORDAN CONSIDERS UNIQUE AND TOUCHING ITS NATIONAL DIGNITY. THE PRIME MINISTER EMPHASIZED TO THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR THAT JORDAN ESTABLISHED POLICY IS TO CONSIDER ANY WEAPON THAT ARRIVES IN JORDAN AS JORDANIAN WEAPON AS SOON AS IT ARRIVES IN THE KINGDOM. IN ADDITION, THE DELIVERY DATES OF THESE HAWK MISSILES, AS MENTIONED IN THE MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT FORD DO NOT COINCIDE WITH JORDAN'S REQUIREMENT, SINCE JORDAN STRONGLY WISHES (YUSSIR) TO RECEIVE THEM AS SOON AS THE TRAINING OF ITS ARMED FORCES IN THEIR USE IS COMPLETED. AND WHEN THESE FORCES ARE CAPABLE OF ABSORBING THEM SO THAT CAN START DEFENDING WITH THEM THE AIR FORCE. THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED THAT IN CASE THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS NOT PREPARED TO CONCLUDE THE SALES AGREEMENT (CONTRACT) ON THESE GROUNDS, THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT WILL WITHDRAW ITS

JORDAN'S REQUIREMENT FOR THE AIR DEFENSE OF THE KINGDOM. IN
THE AREA WHICH T No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/29 : LOC-HAK-170-6-20-41-O
AS HIS MAJESTY THE EXALTED KING HAS DECLARED BEFORE
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AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES WHICH JORDAN HAS
FOLLOWED IN SECURING ITS WEAPONS UNTIL NOW. END QTE.

4. WE BELIEVE THIS TRANSLATION IS MOST AUTHORIZATIVE SINCE IT
HAS BEEN MOST CAREFULLY TRANSLATED IN LIGHT OF THE AMBASSADOR'S
CONVERSION WITH PRIME MINISTER RIFAI REGARDING THE TEXT AND
ITS PURPOSE
PICKERING